

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET**SUBJECT:** (Optional)Exchange of Correspondence between DCI & Archivist of the United States
Concerning, inter alia, Historical Review Program**FROM:**

Information & Privacy Coordinator

EXTENSION**NO.****DATE**

18 May 1988

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)**DATE****RECEIVED****FORWARDED****OFFICER'S INITIALS****COMMENTS** (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

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Because of the continuing issues concerning the Historical Review Program, I am forwarding copies of the correspondence between the DCI and the Archivist including some background papers.

You should note especially paragraph 4 of the DCI History Staff memo of 17 May (highlighted), the DCI Notice, and paragraph 3 of the proposed DCI letter (also highlighted).



National Archives

OIT/TRIS
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Executive Registry

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19 MAY 1988

Washington, DC 20408

APR 12 1988

Honorable William H. Webster
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Mr. Webster:

As I begin my tenure as the seventh Archivist of the United States, I extend to you the support and cooperation of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). You most likely know the National Archives primarily as the building on the mall where the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights are displayed. But the National Archives is much more. One of our most important responsibilities is to identify the historically valuable records of the Federal Government and to provide for their continued care and use. To do so means we must rely on a strong and continuing relationship with all Federal agencies to ensure that important records documenting your and the agency's decisions, policies, and transactions are created and earmarked for preservation as part of the Archives of the United States.

Under Congressional mandate (44 U.S.C. 2904, 3101, 3102) I share with you responsibilities for the management of current records. At the outset, I want you to know that I welcome your advice and suggestions, and those of the departmental employees to whom you have assigned records management duties. I invite you and your key staff to visit with me so that together we may ensure a full understanding of our respective duties and responsibilities. I would be very pleased if you and your staff could spend a few minutes with me to tour the National Archives. We could show you how past generations of Federal executives and archivists, working together, were able to save our historical treasures including records from your agency or predecessor, for use by today's citizens. To be sure, this tour would place in perspective our important duties to create and preserve records which document the history of our times.

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I look forward to hearing from you, and I thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Sincerely,



DON W. WILSON
Archivist of the United States

P.S. It was a pleasure to have
you in the archives last
evening. I look forward to
visiting with you further at
the headquarters.



17 May 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Executive Director
Deputy Director for Administration
Director of Public Affairs
Executive Secretary

FROM: J. Kenneth McDonald
Chief, DCI History Staff

SUBJECT: Reply to Letter from the Archivist of the United States

1. This is for your background information with respect to the attached letter for your signature responding to a letter from Dr. Don W. Wilson, the Archivist of the United States.

2. Dr. Wilson became the seventh Archivist of the United States in December 1987. He is a professional archivist whose previous position was also in the National Archives and Records Administration, as Director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library at Ann Arbor, Michigan. A native of Clay Center, Kansas, he graduated from Washburn University in 1964, and took a Ph.D. at the University of Cincinnati in 1968. He has a good reputation as an archivist, and the principal historical professional associations strongly supported his appointment to his present position.

3. CIA's relations with the National Archives have been good. In 1984, on Mr. Casey's initiative, the Agency resolved an impasse over the transfer to the Archives of some 3000 cubic feet of OSS operational records in CIA's custody, which the Agency had declassified in the 1970s. Since June 1984 CIA has transferred these OSS records to the National Archives in increments, as fast as they have been able to process them. This transfer is now nearly complete. At the National Archives more researchers use these OSS records than any other collection, except for the diplomatic files of the Department of State.

SUBJECT: Reply to Letter from the Archivist of the United States

4. With the transfer of the declassified OSS records as precedent, and as part of the negotiations with Congress for the passage of the CIA Information Act of 1984, Mr. Casey undertook to institute a new Agency program of selective declassification review for older CIA records of historical interest. I shall attach a copy of Mr. Casey's 18 June 1985 Memorandum to All Employees, which describes the CIA Historical Review Program that resulted from this commitment to Congress. Although the Agency has put a great deal of effort into this new program, the results in records actually transferred to the National Archives are still small. Later this month those responsible for the program will submit a report on the program's progress and problems in the past year for you to transmit to our panel of external consultants (which includes the Archivist of the United States, ex officio).

5. CIA's principal routine business with the National Archives and Records Administration concerns the appraisal and scheduling of Agency records. The extent to which a National Archives appraiser (with proper clearances) must inspect highly sensitive Agency files is a source of some apprehension, especially in the Directorate of Operations. A meeting with Dr. Wilson might be an opportunity to clarify this matter.

6. The Agency's liaison with the National Archives, the Information Resources Management Division, in the Office of Information Technology, Directorate of Administration, could help arrange for an exchange of visits with Dr. Wilson. I understand that Dr. Wilson is eager for such an exchange of visits, and that his staff has already informally discussed the possibility with the Information Resources Management Division.

/s/ J. Kenneth McDonald

J. Kenneth McDonald

Attachments

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

18 June 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL EMPLOYEES

SUBJECT: Historical Review Program

1. In October 1983, when the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence took up a bill to permit the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) to exempt certain CIA files from search under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Senator David Durenberger wrote to me about an issue highlighted by the Agency's work with the Committee. This issue was the need to make more declassified Agency materials available to historians. "As historians write the definitive works on the post-World War II era," Senator Durenberger wrote, "it is terribly important that their studies be based on as full a record as possible, consistent with the need to protect our national security." He therefore urged me to establish procedures for reviewing and declassifying some of the material in files not covered by the bill's exemptions. Recognizing that such a program would be a burden for the Agency, he offered to lead the effort to provide budgetary support for new positions to be devoted to this project.

2. I share Senator Durenberger's views on the need for an accurate historical record, and on 4 October 1983 I wrote him stating, "If Congress is willing to provide the resources, I am prepared to institute a new program of selective declassification review of those materials we believe would be of greatest historical interest and most likely to result in declassification of useful information."

3. The agreement by this exchange of letters envisioned an Agency Historical Review Program organized after the passage of the prospective CIA Information Act and using additional resources Congress would provide for this purpose. I had already asked the Chief of the History Staff, however, to explore a program to release historical materials from the World War II period. As a result of this initiative, the Agency took steps to transfer to the National Archives its entire holdings of declassified World War II Office of Strategic Services (OSS) permanent records, a large collection of major historical importance. This transfer began a year ago and up to now the National Archives has received and opened to public research approximately 800 cubic feet of these declassified OSS records. As I wrote to Senator Durenberger in June 1984, this transfer constitutes "an important first step in implementing the selective declassification program I promised to initiate last October."

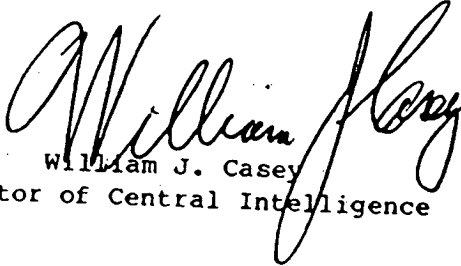
4. In October 1984 Congress passed the CIA Information Act, which relieves the Agency from the burden of searching certain designated files in response to FOIA requests. The Agency's commitment to a Historical

Review Program and its release of OSS records played an important role in the passage of this new Act by reassuring Congress and the public that, in light of the Act's FOIA exemptions, the Agency will undertake new efforts to declassify and transfer to the National Archives historically significant CIA records. Continuing Congressional interest in historians having access to CIA records is evident in the Act's requirement that the DCI, after consulting with the Archivist of the United States, the Librarian of Congress, and representative historians, submit a report to four Congressional committees by 1 June 1985 on the feasibility of conducting a program for the systematic review, declassification, and release to the public of CIA information of historical value.

5. In my report to Congress of 29 May 1985 on the Historical Review Program, I stated that this kind of review is feasible, and described the program that we have established to carry it out. The Agency's consultations with those officials and historians specified by the CIA Information Act proved extraordinarily helpful, and their findings are appended to my report to Congress. Balancing the Agency's statutory duty to protect intelligence sources and methods with legitimate public interest in CIA records, this new program is designed to make significant historical information available without risking damage to national security. As I reported to Congress, this program has my strong support and we are determined to make it succeed.

6. As Senator Durenberger promised, Congress has provided CIA with ten additional positions to support the Historical Review Program which will be described in a forthcoming headquarters regulation. I have assigned principal responsibility for the program to the Office of Information Services (OIS) in the Directorate of Administration, with advice and support from the History Staff in the Office of the DCI. The Classification Review Division of OIS will coordinate closely with Agency components in reviewing documents of historical significance in order to declassify those that no longer require protection. The program is beginning with the review of the Agency's oldest records, which with the transfer of our declassified OSS records are those of CIA's postwar predecessor organizations, namely, the Strategic Services Unit (SSU) of 1945-1946 and the Central Intelligence Group (CIG) of 1946-1947.

7. Although some time will be needed to find out how well the Historical Review Program will work in practice, I believe that it has been established on a sound footing. I am hopeful that this program will make possible a more accurate record and fuller understanding of our Nation's history since World War II.


William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

DISTRIBUTION: ALL EMPLOYEES (1-6)

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

Dr. Don W. Wilson
Archivist of the United States
National Archives and Records Administration
Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Dr. Wilson:

It was a great pleasure to meet you last month when I spoke to the American Society of Newspaper Editors in the National Archives' magnificent rotunda. It was good of you after dinner to show us the Constitution and Declaration of Independence. I felt honored to speak in the same room with these great statements of our rights and freedom.

I was glad to have your 12 April letter extending your support and cooperation to us. When I was Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation I had occasion to learn a great deal about the importance of preserving official records for transfer to the National Archives. I am grateful for the highly professional way that the Archives appraisal task force organized an acceptable schedule for the FBI's files. I know that the records sent to the National Archives will help make possible authoritative and well-documented histories of the FBI.

Here at CIA we value the special help that the National Archives and Records Administration gives us with such tasks as the appraisal and scheduling of our highly sensitive operational records. We also need your continuing help as we work to honor CIA's 1985 commitment to Congress for a Historical Review Program that will declassify and transfer to the Archives older Agency records of historical value. As key members of the consultants' panel CIA formed at the request of Congress, your predecessors, Dr. Warner and Dr. Burke, have had an important role in helping the Agency establish the Historical Review Program. I know that I can count on your counsel and support as we move forward with this important commitment.

I would like to take up your invitation to visit the National Archives, and I would be pleased if you and your principal assistants would visit us at CIA. I am grateful for your personal interest in our work, and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely yours,

William H. Webster
Director of Central Intelligence